Power crises in Delhi

842. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have taken notice of severe power crises in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what sort of assistance Government propose to offer to Delhi Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During April— June, 2002, the power supply position in Delhi was by and large comfortable with marginal energy shortage of 1.7%. However, due to delayed monsoon and the consequent increase in power requirement of Delhi, the energy shortage increased to 3.1% during the first fortnight of July, 2002.

(b) In addition to special assistance provided to Delhi from different sources to meet its summer requirements, the following additional allocation was made from Central Sources in the June/July, 2002 to further augment the availability of power in Delhi.

(i) Additional allocation of 10% (22 MW) from Rajasthan Atomic Power Project-Unit-4 (220 MW) during off peak period.

(ii) Entire 15% unallocated quota (33 MW) from RAPP Unit-3 (220 MW) on round the colck basis, as a short term arrangement.

(iii) Additional allocation of 7.5 to 10% (59 MW-79 MW) from unallocated quota in the Central Sector generating stations in Northern Region during peak/off peak period, as a short term arrangement.

Negotiations with DPC to start Phase-I Project

843. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra alongwith Government of India, has been carrying on negotiations with Dabhol Power Company with a view to start the Phase-I of the project;

(b) whether a lower tariff which is acceptable to all parties has been worked out; and

(c) whether Government has asked NTPC to take over the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra had constituted a Netgotiating Committee with regard to the Dabhol Power Project. The Government of India is not a party to the Power Purchase Agreement signed between Maharashtra State Electricity Board and the Dabhol Power Company. However, Government of India has agreed to facilitate amicable settlement of the various issues surrounding the project and had accordingly appointed Shri A.V. Gokak, retired Secretary to the Government of India, as its nominee on the said Committee. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra. Meanwhile, there have been certain disputes between Dabhol Power Company and Maharashtra State Electricity Board with reference to the Power Purchase Agreement and both parties have initiated legal proceedings against each other.

The financial institutions lead by the Industrial Development Bank of India, who have substantial stake in the Dabhol project, have been discussing the matter with all concerned parties in an effort to restructure and revive the project and to make it viable. Among other efforts the financial institutions are trying to re-start phase-I of the project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Demand for withdrawal of Electricity Bill, 2002

844. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Power Engineers Association has asked the Government to withdraw the Electricity Bill, 2002, otherwise Association would go on a nation-wide agitation

(b) whether the above association has demanded that Government should not go for privatization in power sector because it would not be in the interest of power consumers of the country; and

(c) what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001, it was resolved *inter alia*, that commercial viability has to